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ADEQ Director Owens Dedicates New Vehicle Emission Inspection Station in Apache Junction

PHOENIX (Dec. 22, 2008) - Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) Director Steve Owens on Monday dedicated the Valley's latest vehicle inspection (VEI) station, located at 565 E. 38th Avenue in Apache Junction.

At a ribbon-cutting ceremony this morning, Director Owens said the station officially will be open for business to motorists on Jan. 2. The three-lane station, which is expected to handle about 80,000 inspections annually, will serve the outreaches of the rapidly growing Southeast Valley when the department's new contract with Gordon-Darby, Inc. goes into effect on Jan. 1. More than one million vehicles are inspected annually in the Valley.

"This new station will make it easier for people who live and work in Apache Junction and other parts of the Southeast Valley to get their vehicles inspected," Director Owens said. "This station will help protect the Valley's air quality while making the inspection more convenient."

Each inspection lane at the new station will have the capability to perform all types of emissions inspections including two on-board diagnostic (OBD) inspections simultaneously on each inspection lane. The station will be able to quickly and efficiently inspect both conventional- and OBD-equipped vehicles.

Owens said that ADEQ included a requirement that an additional VEI station be built in the Southeast Valley when the VEI contract was sent out for bids last year.

"This is one of the fastest growing parts of the Valley and we are committed to giving the people of this area the service they need and deserve," Director Owens said. "They will have shorter wait times as well as electronic signs with updated information on wait times to help them know the best time to come to the station."

Another new VEI station was dedicated at 16140 W. Eddie Albert Way in Goodyear Dec. 19 to serve the Southwest Valley.

For more information on ADEQ's VEI program, including locations of all inspection stations and wait-time updates, please visit our Web page: <http://www.myazcar.com/>.